

Appl. No. 10/622,668

Submission for RCE/Reply to Office Action of May 2, 2007

Attorney Docket No. FSF-031391

**REMARKS**

By the present amendment, claims 1 and 17 have been amended; claim 3 has been cancelled. Claims 18 and 19 have been added. Support for the present amendment can be found on page 18, lines 10-14 of the specification. Claims 1, 5, 7, 9, 11, and 13-19 are currently pending in the application.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, and 13-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over EP 10096310 (EP '310). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

EP '310 fails to teach or suggest the specific combination of a reducing agent represented by formula (R1) and a reducing agent represented by formula (R2). More specifically, EP '310 does not teach or suggest specifically combining the reducing agent I-6, which is within the scope of formula (R1), with the reducing agents I-4, I-9, or I-13, which are within the scope of formula (R2). It is noted that reducing agent I-10 is outside the scope of reducing agents represented by formulas (R1) and (R2).

Further, EP '310 fails to teach or suggest using a reducing agent represented by formula (R2) in an amount of 5% to 40% by mol relative to a total amount of the reducing agents under the condition of the specific combination of a reducing agent represented by the formula (R1) and a reducing agent represented by the formula (R2).

In order to show the unexpected results of the present invention, particularly in terms of color tone and tone stability, a Declaration under 37 C.F.R. 1.132 is submitted with this response. The Declaration shows the unexpected results for materials which satisfy both the requirement of the specific two reducing agents and the requirement of the reducing agent represented by formula (R2) being 5 mol % to

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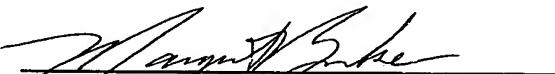
40 mol% of the total amount of reducing agent. In view of the amendments to the claims and the Declaration it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of EP '310 in view of U.S. Patent Publication 2001/0051319 to Oya.

The secondary reference to Oya does not cure the deficiencies of EP '310, discussed above. Therefore it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims currently pending in the application are in condition for allowance; early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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August 30, 2007